

Message Text

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66

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /167 W

----- 098070

R 161610Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2538

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DEUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMBURG 0895

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, XT

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS' STANCE ON NIXON
ROUND

1. DURING RECENT VISIT VOLKSWAGEN, CONSULATE OFFICER TOLD
THAT AT RECENT MEETING EUROPEAN AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS
REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS EUROPEAN STANCE IN FORTHCOMING NIXON-
ROUND GATT NEGOTIATIONS, GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES PROPOSED A
ZERO-TARIFF FOR AUTOMOBILES. THIS PROPOSAL WAS VEHEMENTLY
REJECTED NOT ONLY BY THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN REPS, BUT THE LATTER
WERE ALSO SUPPORTED BY THE BRITISH REPS.

2. REPS FROM THESE COUNTRIES PREFER TO SEE A QUOTA SYSTEM WHICH
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WOULD PREVENT ANY COUNTRY FROM SELLING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY MORE

CARS THAN THE LATTER SOLD IN THE FORMER: IN OTHER WORDS A
BILATERALLY-BALANCED TRADE IN AUTOMOBILES. ALTHOUGH THE DISCUSSIONS
REPORTEDLY CENTERED ON THE JAPANESE, THE GERMAN REPS POINTED
OUT WHAT THIS MIGHT DO TO THEIR MARKET IN U.S. OTHERS SEEMED
UNCONCERNED ABOUT U.S. MARKET.

3. VOLKSWAGEN OFFICIAL WAS VERY PESSIMISTIC CONCERNING
RESULTS OF NIXON ROUND AND OPENLY EXPRESSED FEARS OF EMERGENCE
OF TRADE WAR, IN WHICH GERMAN ECONOMY WOULD BE QUITE VULNERABLE.
BROGAN

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NNN

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30 JUN 2005

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